

Live-at-Home Program Helps Marion County Farm Family to Outstanding Success

By L. O. BRACKEN

By following a live-at-home program and saving money, the Davis family have been able to buy every week Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Davis, Hamilton, Ala., R. 2, have made a success farming and home-making.

"We sell some butter and eggs every week," said Mr. Davis in explaining that the family of 7 children eat all the meat, dairy and poultry products they can. "We have a good garden and sell, we also have plenty of good home-produced vegetables. Over 500 cans of fruits and vegetables are saved annually.

To encourage his tenants to grow their home supply of meat, Mr. Davis lets them keep the hogs and rent land and feed her and pigs until the pigs are eight weeks old. At that time the sow and half the pigs are returned to Mr. Davis and the tenant keeps half the pigs.

Regarding Mr. Davis' success farming, Austin Ezelle, assistant county agent, says:

Mr. J. C. Davis, farmer, County AAA Committee man, and agricultural history maker, moved from Fulton, Mississippi, to Marion County in 1916 and settled

He Started on Small Scale

YOUNG DAIRYMAN IS SUCCESSFUL

Starting in the dairy business five years ago with one milk cow, today George Hoger, Crenshaw County farm boy, is milking 17 of his own cows and dairy products are his chief business. His monthly profits average \$150.

In speaking of his success in dairy farming, George said: "We have tried to grow into the dairy business instead of just going into it. We have raised many more cattle than we have ever had a few. It didn't take long for us to learn that a good bull would pay us."

George paid \$250 for a fine four-weeks-old bull calf, which in two years has sired several fine calves.

Young Hoger has come into the dairy business five years ago with only the family cow for a herd, his enterprise was almost a one-man job. His father was a barber, spending most of his time in Luverne. The boy did all the milking and feeding of the cow, doing his chores.

George decided to expand his business when he found that he had a surplus of milk from the fine-producing cow. His first customer was a neighbor who said she would use one quart of milk a day. But as his herd gradually grew, so did his customers, today the enterprising farm boy is supplying 115 families with rich milk.

George is now renting 30 acres of land for pasture and 12 acres for oats and feed. Even this, he says, is not enough. He says he is going to move to the edge of Luverne where he can get good pasture land and raise more feed.

All the cows of the Sunrise Dairy, the name given the business by George, have been tested for butterfat. Recently he joined a milk-testing association,

Keeps Corn Pure

A successful way to keep his pure variety of corn from becoming crossed with other varieties has been found by R. R. Holland, Rogersville, R. 3.

When Mr. Holland purchased the purebred Dutch Prolific seed corn he bought more than needed to plant his own farm and, getting the extra, he gave his neighbors with the understanding that they would plant it in fields adjoining his farm so the corn on his land would remain pure. The neighbors like the new variety so well that they are now planting their entire corn acreages in Vermont.

The association is composed of about 25 farmers. Greater efficiency in milk production is the result in milk marketing will go hand in hand, according to plans of the cooperative.

The new association is known as the First Farmers' Dairy Herd Improvement Association.



The two scenes above show why Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Davis never have to buy meat. Mr. Davis is shown, left, admiring one of his fine hogs just after feeding time. At right Mr. and Mrs. Davis are pictured with daughter, Mary Sue, cutting a fine piece of pork from some of the fine shoulders and other cuts of meat which are cured on the farm near Hamilton.

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Squealing Pig Saw America Long Before Ancestors Of People Living Here Now

Hardly less amazing than the parade of Hannibal's elephants over the Alps was the successful cross-country tour of De Soto's herd of pigs from the Everglades to the Ozarks, through a thousand miles and 100 miles of forest, prairie, mountain, flood, swamp, snow, and summer heat, which began 400 years ago this year.

The Spanish explorer arrived in Tampa Bay in 1539 with nine vessels, 1,000 men, 100 horses, 300 mules, and 60 pack mules (oxes). The party had been reduced to 100 men, 100 horses, the latter being reserved for the colonists to be planned to establish on the Florida peninsula or beyond.

Columbus had brought 100 horses, 100 mules, and pack animals when he set out west (1493).

Peru, and other lands on the western continent itself had been conquered by the Spaniards, De Soto himself playing a prominent part in the struggle for the wealth of Peru. But Florida, the last of the continent, remained practically a mystery. Hence De Soto was even made Governor of Cuba in order that he might use that island as a base of operations in conquering and colonizing Florida.

Heading northward from the Tampa area, the Spaniards marched slowly onward in an amazing race of zigzags that were to last at least seven and perhaps eleven of our present southern states, traversing mountains and the great Mississippi river, before the survivors, worn out and exhausted, reached half-way across northern Texas; but the approach of autumn on the seemingly limitless Texas plains sent them trudging back to the Mississippi to begin their slow long march to the Gulf of Mexico, where they buried their supplies, and anchors their firearms, their captured chains, and such bits and stirrups as remained. The remaining horses and most of the horses so far surviving were turned into meat for the voyage.

After a desperate 16-day battle with hostile river Indians in their much smaller canoes, and after six weeks of feverish way around the Texas coast, 311 hairy beings clothed and shod in deerkins and claiming once to have been Spaniards reached the shelter and welcome of a Spanish settlement on the Pameco river near the site of modern Tampa, four years later.

At the start of the expedition, the Spaniards had apparently on mutton, the Indians, and seemingly ever the mountains to somewhere near Chattanooga, the moving column must have been an amazing sight. First came the armored cavalry in its glittering splendor, behind limped the infantry, while the pack animals accompanied a squat, reluctant train of porters—the rapidly multiplying herd of hogs—and its herders. And from the hillsides and forests along the way peered savage eyes that had never seen a white man, horse, or pig, or fire, or water, since the time that the sometimes venerated rider and his horse together as a single riding animal.

Sometimes the party was well fed by friendly or frightened Indians; sometimes it was half-starved, much as the Spaniards had been raised or processed in Alabama. This shows the urgent need of grading, packing and processing. It also shows that Alabama needs to produce more of the things it consumes and to consume more of the things it produces.

Available in numbers in the products of Alabama, families need to be set up all over the state.

Alabama today is selling most of her products in the raw state, buying them back again finished articles at ten times as much as she received for the raw product.

Extension of electric lines is bringing light and energy to an increasing number of farm homes. Electricity is now used in 18 per cent of the homes in rural sections as compared with 13 per cent in 1930.

Opportunity to that which they can find elsewhere.

Alabama's iron industry in Birmingham, the plate mill in the Birmingham area, has been shipped out of Alabama to be returned filled with products of other states.

An increase of industry would bring about a fair balance of income and opportunity in agricultural and industrial pursuits and mean that more native young men and women would remain in Alabama, this state offering them

far obtainable, but also most of their ammunition, saddles, and clothing, and many horses, and all but 100 of their 500 hogs.

After a 30-day delay for the building of boats to cross the Mississippi, the expedition began a year of wandering in Arkansas, finally returning to the banks of the Mississippi with the plan of building ships to return to Cuba for reinforcements. Here De Soto died, however, and the hog herd, now increased to 500, was auctioned off among his men, who thus began to eat pork much more often.

De Soto's successor, Moscoso, at first

abandoned the plan of a voyage by sea in favor of the supposedly easier land march to New Spain (Mexico). The surviving Spaniards, however, took wagons and traps which apparently reached half-way across northern Texas; but the approach of autumn on the seemingly

limitless Texas plains sent them trudging back to the Mississippi to begin their slow long march to the Gulf of Mexico, where they buried their supplies, and anchors their firearms, their captured chains, and such bits and stirrups as remained. The remaining horses and most of the horses so far surviving were turned into meat for the voyage.

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This cabinet, which can be utilized for storage of any number of clothing items, is an example of modern home conveniences which are making for improved farm living conditions. Notice the spaces for storage of suits and dresses, soiled clothes, shirts and waists, and various miscellaneous items.

More Conveniences Are On Farm

FARM LIVING CONDITIONS BETTER

Farm living conditions have improved. In spite of the ups and downs of farm incomes, life on the farm has become more livable. The farm family's opportunity to improve its cultural and social life has been multiplied many times in the last few years.

At the present time about three-fifths of all farm families have radios. In a survey made by the Joint Committee on Radio Research, 59 per cent of all farm families owned radios on January 1, 1930. Ownership of radios among rural families will continue to increase, believes Miss Nell Pickens, extension home management specialist, largely through improved transportation and communication facilities.

Both the farm and non-farm communities have not increased as rapidly as some of the other modern conveniences. There has been little change in the number since 1930.

Ways of spending among farm families are being altered by these new ways of living. Miss Pickens points out. The farm family's money is spent in the farm for money and for farm products used by the family. "Since we live in an economy in which money is increasingly important there must be a conversion of enough of the farm products into money to meet the family's needs and leave a little margin for life's extras if living conditions on the farm continue to improve," she adds.

It is a sad commentary on Alabama industry that the tin being made in the great tin plate mill in the Birmingham area is being shipped out of Alabama to the other prosers also. Each furnishes a market and an outlet for the products of the other. Solution of Alabama's problems and lifting the low income of her citizens calls for the closest cooperation between agriculture and industry in Alabama.

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